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CIA Denies Training Report

STATINTL

A spokesman for the Central Intelligence Agency this week denied a report that York County's Camp Peary is used to train CIA agents in the use of "mini-nuclear" weapons and the tactics of assassination.

The spokesman did not, however, specifically deny that Camp Peary is used as a CIA training base as charged in the current issue of a Williamsburg newspaper, the Virginia Gazette.

The Virginia Gazette story, based on lengthy interviews by two of the newspapers staff members with former CIA agent JOE Maggio, who has written a semi-fictional book about the agency, quoted Maggio as saying Camp Peary is used for training and experimentation in subversive and espionage activities — including such subjects as assassination, demolition, parachuting, wiretapping and intelligence gathering.

In reaction to the story, Angus A. Thuermer, who identified himself as assistant to the director of the CIA, called the Richmond Times-Dispatch's Washington Bureau to refute portions of these charges.

Maggio's statements "about assassination training and teams is utterly without truth," Thuermer is reported as saying.

"The agency has never participated in, or trained for, assassination," he added.

"The comment about nuclear mini-weapons is also equally untrue."

According to the Times-Dispatch, Thuermer never actually denied Camp Peary's role as a CIA training base, though he apparently did not confirm the report either.

Another former CIA agent, however, told Times-Dispatch staffers Camp Peary was the CIA's principal training base in the United States when he underwent training in the 1950s.

The unidentified former agent reportedly said further he believes the base is still used for this purpose from information he has gathered from contacts and personal friendships with present CIA employees.

Nevertheless, the paper said, he joined Thuermer in dismissing the reports of assassination teams and nuclear mini-weapons, saying he did not know of any such things at Camp Peary while he was there.

Maggio, however, insisted he would "stand by his sources of information," though he conceded his contentions of assassination training and use of nuclear devices were based on second-hand accounts.

28 Dec 1972

'Assassins' Allegation Is Denied

WILLIAMSBURG (UPI) — A Central Intelligence Agency spokesman has labeled "utterly untrue" a published report that a camp in Virginia was used for CIA training in nuclear weapons.

The spokesman also denied "unequivocally" that secrecy-shrouded Camp Peary in York County was used to train CIA agents in assassination techniques.

The report was published in the weekly Virginia Gazette, which based its story on an interview with a former CIA man.

The newspaper published here said Camp Peary is a secret CIA training base and has been for years. Agents are trained in assassination, demolition, parachutes, wire-tapping and intelligence-gathering and have experimented with what the former CIA agent called "mini-nuclear bombs."

The one-time CIA man is Joe Maggio, who said he was trained at the camp for six months. Maggio has written a novel about the CIA entitled "Company Uan."

The CIA spokesman said Maggio had been "fired for cause from a Central Intelligence Agency training program." The spokesman denied the charges about assassination training and said "the allegation about mini-nuclear weapons in any CIA training program or use by the agency is utterly untrue."

Maggio said he was fired for free-lance writing he did while working for the CIA, not because of the way he did his work with the agency.

Ex-CIA Agent Tells of Six-Week Peary Course

By NICHOLAS BROWN

STATINTL

A former agent with the Central Intelligence Agency told The Times-Dispatch yesterday that Camp Peary in York County was the CIA's principal training base in the United States when he underwent training there in the 1950s.

He added that through contacts and personal friendships with present employees of the CIA he believes that Camp Peary is still the organization's major training facility.

The former agent, who asked not to be identified, said he participated in a six-week training course at Camp Peary in the Junior Officer's Training Program the CIA held there.

"We would come in on a Monday and stay until Friday," he said. "While you were there you had an assumed name. We took a course in basic intelligence gathering."

The former agent said he did not know of any assassination teams, guerrilla cadres, special warfare agents or nuclear devices at Camp Peary while he was there. Joe Maggio, a former agent with the CIA's covert "Special Operations Division," has maintained that these things exist at the camp, commonly called "the farm" by CIA personnel.

Special weapons, which Maggio has called "mini-nuclear bombs" and said were demonstrated at Camp Peary, were disputed and called "the most preposterous thing of all" by the former agent.

As for the assassination terms, the former agent said, "I would think if the agency had anything like that they would train them overseas." He added that most of Maggio's description of the activities on the base "sounds like James Bond to me."

The CIA's purpose for existing, the former agent said, "is to gather intelligence information and disseminate it to the proper officials of government." In the 1950s, the

former agent said, the CIA also dealt in counterespionage overseas.

The former agent also said that during his association with the CIA it was quite possible that foreign nationals were brought to Camp Peary for "debriefings."

He said that while at the camp for training, agents wore military fatigue uniforms. While he was there, he said, the population of the camp consisted of several CIA instructors, a cooking staff, a contingent of military police, and the 50 or so students. There was both a six-week course and a three-month course.

One exercise the agent recalled was named "Rabbit" and required him to trail someone. He said he had to follow this person to Richmond and place him under surveillance in the city.

Another exercise used facsimiles of the borders of Eastern European countries.

There was an activity called "Operation Holecloth" which organized an intelligence program that included trying to recruit an agent.

"Dead Drop" Cited

Much of the former agent's training at Camp Peary was spent in learning intelligence techniques and terminology. For example, he said the term "dead drop" meant leaving a secret message in a designated place for another agent.

The former agent said he thought it was "common knowledge" that the CIA operated a training facility at Camp Peary, and he said he could "think of no reason why they wouldn't admit" having a base there.

In recalling his former experience with the CIA, however, the former agent surmised that one aspect of the agency hasn't changed over the years.

"Security is pretty damn rigid," he said.

CIA Denies Parts Of Camp Peary Story

By Times-Dispatch Staff
And Bureau Writers

In a rare burst of public comment, the Central Intelligence Agency in Washington yesterday denied that potential assassins are schooled at Camp Peary in York County and that "mini-nuclear" weapons are tested there, but the agency would not squelch reports that Camp Peary is a bustling CIA training base.

"The base is run by the Army, and as I understand it, there are a number of training operations there," Angus A. Thuermer, who identified himself as assistant to the director of the CIA, told a reporter from The Times-Dispatch Washington bureau.

Thuermer was reacting to stories, which first appeared in the current issue of a Williamsburg newspaper, that the hush-hush Defense Department installation not far from the Colonial capital is

actually a training post for assassination teams, guerrilla cadres, special warfare agents and other highly clandestine operations of the CIA.

Virginia Gazette

The Williamsburg paper — the weekly Virginia Gazette — based its story on lengthy interviews it said two of its staff members had with a former CIA agent who has written "Company Man," a semi-fictional book about the agency and some of its activities at Camp Peary.

The author, Joe Maggio, told The Gazette and The Times-Dispatch that Camp Peary is the site for myriad training and experimentation operations in subversive and espionage activities. He said training covers such subjects as assassination, demolition, parachuting, wiretapping and intelligence gathering.

"I'm sure that if you had a blue ribbon committee go in there, they'd find a whole new world, a Disneyland of

war," the Gazette quoted Maggio as saying.

Yesterday, Thuermer said Maggio's "statements about assassination training and teams is utterly without truth."

"The agency has never participated in, or trained for, assassination," he added. "The comment about nuclear mini-weapons is also equally untrue."

"Piece of Fiction"

"Mr. Maggio is writing a piece of fiction, having no bearing on his brief agency association."

Maggio, 34, told the Times-Dispatch Tuesday night that he worked for the CIA for only about six months before being fired but that he trained at Camp Peary.

Maggio said he was fired because he talked too much and because of his extracurricular activities — which he said included free lance writing — but that his dismissal had nothing to do with performance of his CIA duties. He said he was attached to a "Special Operations Division" which trained at Camp Peary for subversive military and espionage operations against targets selected by a CIA policy-making body.

A brief elaboration yesterday by Thuermer on Maggio seemed to bear out the former agent's explanation of the events surrounding his firing.

Thuermer said Maggio was "terminated for loquacity and continuing indiscretion, particularly boasting of his non-experiences with the CIA." Thuermer said Maggio worked for the CIA from February to early August, 1966.

Circumstances Repeated

Maggio, contacted by telephone again yesterday at a Vermont ski resort where he is vacationing, repeated the circumstances leading to his firing, and said the CIA explanation was the "truth."

He said he made "no pretensions that I participated in any of those adventures" he

book.

Maggio conceded that his

training and use of "mini-nuclear weapons" at Camp Peary are based on second hand information. But he said he would stand by his sources of such information.

Thuermer, who telephoned The Times-Dispatch and wire services yesterday morning to contradict some of Maggio's statements about Camp Peary, said the former agent "is selling the book like crazy — and I guess those guys are selling that Gazette down there, too." Thuermer said he telephoned from his home in Middleburg, not far from the CIA headquarters in McLean.

No Speculation

Rep. Thomas N. Downing (D-Va.) whose 1st District encompasses Camp Peary, declined yesterday to speculate about the 10,000-acre installation but said, "I do intend to speak with CIA officials about it when I return to Washington."

Downing added, "Camp Peary is a highly classified government agency and it would be inappropriate for me to comment further."

Army Col. James E. Dunn, commanding officer of Camp Peary, reached for a comment yesterday afternoon, said, "My directive is to refer any questions from the Virginia Gazette, The Richmond Times-Dispatch or any other news media to the public affairs officer at Cinclant (Commander-in-chief Atlantic Command) in Norfolk."

In a telephone statement from Norfolk, a spokesman for CINCLANT said he could "merely tell" a reporter what the camp is:

"Camp Peary is called the Armed Forces Experimental Training Activity, located at Camp Peary near Williamsburg, Va. It has the mission of developing training techniques for the military and for civilian elements of the government."

Background Known

Maggio said yesterday that the publisher of his book — G.P. Putnam & Sons of New York City — knew all about his background with the CIA before the book was printed. He explained that CIA officials had corresponded with Putnam about Maggio and his status.

The CIA, Maggio said, had initially denied that he was a former employee, but when confronted with the fact that Putnams had letters from the

CIA saying Maggio could not receive federal unemployment status because he was fired by CIA in 1966, the agency changed its story.

One of the items in Maggio's book and newspaper interview said that final exams for CIA agents in a "trade-craft" course included message drops, rendezvous gatherings, surveillance and "tail-ing" of suspects on the streets of nearby cities. Maggio himself took the exam in Newport News, he said.

Newport News police Chief H. B. Blackmon said he knew nothing about any CIA activity in his city. The only involvement Blackmon said he ever had with Camp Peary was when he went hunting on land adjacent to the base several years ago and a hunting dog went onto the property. They (the security men) would not let us go in there to get him."

Wouldn't Bother Him

"It took us several hours to get the dog back," Blackmon recalled. He said "it wouldn't bother me" if the CIA used the Newport News area. "Nobody would ever know it," he added, "if this is the type of thing they're doing."

Police Chief P. G. Minetti of Hampton said, "I'm just flabbergasted I don't know anything about any CIA activity here. No one has talked to me at all about it."

Williamsburg Police Chief Andrew Rutherford said he knew nothing about any CIA activity at Camp Peary or on the streets of the Colonial capital.

"It wouldn't bother me a bit, if it were," he said. "They've been out there for about 20 years and they've never bothered anyone here."

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Virginia Camp Said CIA Site

WILLIAMSBURG (AP) — Is Camp Peary, a hush-hush Department of Defense installation in York County, actually a training camp for the Central Intelligence Agency?

The Virginia Gazette, a weekly newspaper published in this restored colonial capital not far from the camp, says it is, basing its claim principally on an interview with an ex-CIA agent turned novelist.

Other reports that the camp is the scene of CIA-related activities have been in circulation for at least 10 years.

The Gazette article said the CIA uses Peary to train teams of assassins, guerrillas, foreign mercenaries and special warfare agents and to test exotic new weapons.

'NO COMMENTS'

Gazette reporters wrote that they were not permitted to enter the camp property and received crisp "no comments" when they posed questions to officials there.

Nearly all their information apparently came from former CIA man Joe Maggio, who wrote a novel — "Company Man" — which mentioned a "Camp Perry" at which tactical nuclear weapons were tested.

The Gazette said Maggio confirmed from his home in Coral Gables, Fla., that the "Camp Perry" in his novel in actuality is Virginia's Camp Peary, taken over by the Department of Defense 21 years ago.

'SPECIAL COURSE'

The newspaper said it was told by Maggio that he was at Camp Peary for three months in 1966, enrolled in a "special intelligence tradecraft course" given CIA recruits.

It said its interview with Maggio indicated the "trainee methods and techniques covered by the CIA" at Camp Peary included "assassination training, demolition training, parachute training, courses in wiretapping and intelligence-gathering, and experiments with special weapons for use in the field, including what Maggio labeled a 'mini' nuclear bombs.

When Camp Peary was acquired by the Department of Defense in 1951, it was called an "armed forces experimental training activity." It still is called that.

CIA Denies Use of Small Nuclear Weapons at Peary

WILLIAMSBURG (UPI)—A Central Intelligence Agency spokesman denied Wednesday allegations that mini-nuclear weapons were used in CIA training programs at Camp Peary near here or in any other agency training program.

The CIA spokesman's comment came after a story published by the Virginia Gazette, a weekly newspaper, here, about operations at Camp Peary, a secrecy-clouded Department of Defense installation. The Gazette said the base is actually a CIA training camp and has been for years.

The Gazette said its report was based on about four weeks of investigation by two staff members. The base was acquired 21 years ago by the Defense Department and labeled "an Armed Forces Experimental Training Activity" base.

Much of the newspaper's story was based on an interview with Joe Maggio, who said he was a former CIA operative with the Agency's Covert Special Operations Division. Maggio has written a novel about the CIA, entitled "Company Man." In the book, he mentioned activities at a "Camp Perry." He told the newspaper the section on "Camp Perry" actually referred to the "Camp Peary" in York County.

The Gazette said its information from Maggio "indicates that the training methods and techniques covered by the CIA at Camp Peary include assassination training, demolition training, parachute training, courses in wiretapping and intelligence gathering and experiments with special weapons for use in the field, including what Maggio labeled as 'mini-nuclear bombs.'"

The CIA Spokesman "unequivocally" denied that the agency trained for or engaged in an assassination operations.

"The allegation about mini-nuclear weapons in any CIA training program or use by the Agency is utterly untrue," the spokesman added.

The spokesman also said Maggio had been "fired for cause from a Central Intelligence Training Program."

Maggio, 34, told the Gazette he was fired from the CIA in 1967 because he was doing some free lance writing while employed by the agency. He said his dismissal had nothing to do with performance of his CIA duties.

Maggio also told the Gazette he was "never in a position of responsibility" with the CIA, but spent a total of six months in training with the Agency at Camp Peary.

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Is Camp Peary Cloak for CIA?

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. (AP) — Is Camp Peary, a hush-hush Department of Defense installation in York County, Va., actually a training camp for the Central Intelligence Agency?

The Virginia Gazette, a weekly newspaper published not far from the camp says it is, basing its claim principally on an interview with an ex-CIA agent turned novelist.

Two reporters for the Gazette contend in an article for the weekly that the CIA uses Peary to train teams of assassins, guerrillas, foreign mercenaries and special warfare agents, and to test exotic new weapons.

They wrote that they were not permitted to enter the camp property and received crisp "no comments" when they posed questions to officials there.

Maggio the Source

Nearly all their information apparently came from former CIA man Joe Maggio, who wrote a novel — "Company Man" — which mentioned a "Camp Perry" at which he said tactical nuclear weapons were tested.

The Gazette reported that Maggio said from his home in Coral Gables, Fla., that the "Camp Perry" in his novel in

actuality was Virginia's Camp Peary, taken over by the Department of Defense 21 years ago.

The newspaper said it was told by Maggio that he was at Camp Peary for three months in 1956, enrolled in a "special intelligence tradecraft course" given CIA recruits.

It said Maggio said in the interview that the "training methods and techniques covered by the CIA" at Camp Peary included "assassination training, demolition training, parachute training, courses in wiretapping and intelligence-gathering, and experiments with special weapons for use in the field, including what Maggio labeled as 'mini-nuclear bombs.'"

'Disneyland of War'

The Gazette quoted Maggio as saying, "I'm sure if you had a blue ribbon committee

go in there, they'd find a whole new world — a Disneyland of war."

The Gazette quoted him as saying "the information contained on Camp Peary in the novel is factual."

Among other weapons the Gazette quoted Maggio as saying are being tested at Camp Peary were a laser beam weapon used to cause bodily deterioration within 24 hours, experimental formulas of drugs such as LSD, and a variety of chemical warfare materials.

"Some day, somewhere," the Gazette said it was told by Maggio in a taped telephone interview, "that base is going to have a catastrophe — some Dr. Strangelove explosion that really is going to rock that area."

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Camp Peary Exposed
As CIA Training Base

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Composite photograph taken from a hilltop in Queens Lake subdivision shows Queens Creek as the eastern boundary of Camp Peary. According to a former CIA agent, a highly restricted weapons testing area is located not far from this view of the base.

Peary Exposed As CIA Training Base

(Continued From Page 1)

operational control" under provisions established by the Atomic Energy Act of 1954.

Asked if there were nuclear devices kept at Camp Peary, a Department of Defense spokesman said "Overall, we just don't comment on the deployment or location of nuclear weapons."

It should be noted that acquisition of Camp Peary for the CIA was also managed through the Department of Defense and official public information on the camp comes through Department of Defense channels.

Other weapons under testing at the base, according to Maggio, include: a laser beam weapon used by the "kill teams" to cause bodily deterioration within 24 hours; experimental formulas of psychotropic drugs such as LSD and various chemical warfare agents.

Catastrophe, Someday Maggio warned "Someday, somewhere, that base is going to have a catastrophe—some Doctor Strangelove explosion that really is going to rock that area. And you're going to hear it all the way over there to the House of Burgesses."

This admonition was echoed recently by one resident of Queens Lake. He asked that his name be withheld. He recalled "a very severe explosion" at the base last summer when "knocked the paintings off the walls." He added, "Everyone in Queens Lake heard it."

Camp Peary's fourth function is that of a "safe area," Maggio reports in the book. Because of the base's inaccessibility to the outside world and its impenetrable defenses, the installation has been used exclusively as a sanctuary for case officers coming out assignment and agents who "have to escape the field" to return to the field.

One of the most recent cases of this was the work in Russia. Who really had the Russian KGB word in the area and got too hot and they stuck him there for two years in total," Maggio said on the phone. "That guy is a legend with the Company."

Deadly With Friends There is also an oblique reference in "Company Man" to the detention

of agents who have fallen out of favor with the CIA. Asked about this, Maggio replied "You'll probably find political prisoners there, too. In the book, he writes:

"CIA is never rumored to have dirty linen or employees who disagree with the policy-making group. Those who disagree with CIA's policy are let go with threats of bodily harm to loved ones—never to the former employee but to his family. If they persist to a point where, for example, they threaten to reveal any function of the CIA apparatus of policy implementation, they face one-way options: Train-ped-up charges with certain conviction, followed by a long stretch in prison; or, for crimes against the state—30's final decision—a fatal accident."

This statement helps explain the adamant reluctance by anyone locally associated with Camp Peary to discuss the installation.

Sketchy News Accounts

Little or nothing has been disclosed about the base since it came under the CIA in the early 1950's. Press clippings up to that time indicate that the installation was just another military post acquired by the Federal government at the start of World War II.

In 1942, Camp Peary was activated on 10,500 acres of land in Bruton District, York County and the site included Magruder Village. The base was set up as a Seabee Training center for the duration of the war. Approximately 60,000-70,000 sailors were trained there during the war years.

Virginia acquired the base in 1948 for a game preservation and reforestation area. Two years later, various Peninsula leaders proposed the abandoned installation as the site of the U.S. Air Force Academy, but the measure failed.

Camp Peary was reacquired by the Department of Defense in 1951 to establish an "Armed Forces Experimental Training Activity." The same official then it goes by today. For the next 21 years, the only news coming from the base concerned a series of construction projects under way in the early 1960's.

Isolated Area

Subsequently, two parcels at the installation were isolated by con-

struction near the base. In 1964, completion of Interstate 64 cut off about 480 acres of Camp Peary located next to the Waller Mill watershed. That land was transferred to the National Park Service last September. A second portion of 750 acres located east of Queens Lake is now being sought by both the National Park Service and York County.

Occupying a land area more than three times the size of Williamsburg itself, Camp Peary has remained almost completely invisible in the surrounding area during its occupation by the CIA. Maggio attributed this to two factors: The existence of the base's security measures, and the nature of a CIA organization's "cover."

The base perimeter runs in a rough semicircle from the mouth of Queens Creek up to I-64, along the highway until it intersects Skimino Road near Schenk's Terrace, and along Skimino Road for several miles until it meets the York River near Riverview Plantation. Camp Peary has about eight miles of York River waterfront, all of it in York County.

Military Police Patrols

A single lane paved perimeter road follows the edge of the base most of the way around. Maggio said that regular patrols around this road by a detachment of Army Military Police are only part of an elaborate defense system against unauthorized trespassers.

"They have the same sensor devices used in Vietnam during the 'tense,'" Maggio said. "They sense the heat of the body and set off an alarm. Crave under the wire, and you're not coming out."

He also noted that most areas of the base located near the outside communities are unused buffer zones.

From the air, Camp Peary is barely distinguishable from the rest of the Williamsburg area. Most of the base is hidden under a thick cover of deciduous and conifer trees, with several large open fields adding an occasional break to the landscape.

Landscape Described

From points above I-64 and the York River, however, three concentrations of buildings and other



This large open field near the mouth of Queens Creek is reported by former CIA agent Joe Maggio to be a weapons testing area for the CIA at Camp Peary. Portions of Queens Lake are barely visible at arrow.

structures are visible. Just inside the main gate area, a number of red brick and white frame buildings are clustered along several streets.

Along the western waterfront of Camp Peary, several developments of residential housing can be seen. As can a number of nondescript buildings grouped along Carters Creek and Bigler Mill Pond. The third built-up area is located in the easternmost part of the installation.

Hidden behind a dense treeline from neighboring Queens Lake, a paved runway nearly one mile long separates a triangular portion of Camp Peary from the rest of the base. In that area can be seen a number of rectangular fields run-ning along the river, upon which are parked what appear to be an assortment of military vehicles.

Porto Bello Visible

Previous press accounts in discussing the existence of about six structures on the base, approximate the number that can be sighted from the air. In addition, several buildings which date back to Magruder Village are known to be still erect in the main area, near the camp's main gate. Also, the main building of Porto Bello mansion is partially visible from the air, located due South of the camp runway.

Maggio, who has worked as a journalist and writer since his departure from the CIA seven years ago, cited disillusionment with the CIA's more brutal activities as the main reason he decided to publicize his experiences with "The Company." He confirmed that he did not clear the contents of his book with the CIA. Such procedure is a requirement of all employees and former employees.

"I didn't feel that within a free society any agency should ever have any say over what I wrote," he said. Maggio also disclosed that the CIA has "screamed to my publisher" about certain contents of the book, particularly sections dealing with the existence of the Special Operations Division "kill teams" at Camp Peary.

CIA's Press

Maggio also cautioned that the freedom of the press is "not for the Company." He warned "They have a dossier on every reporter who ever talked, ever asked about the CIA."

Because of the curtain of secrecy surrounding Camp Peary, it is virtually impossible to verify Maggio's story at the local level. But Camp Peary's only a portion of "Company Man," which deals with a variety of covert activities by the

CIA, among them the Gulf of Tonkin incident which eventually led to the United States' involvement in the Vietnam War.

Seamour Hersh of *The New York Times* has been traveling around the country collecting information on the overall work of the CIA and he has touched base with Maggio, Hersh, who won the Pulitzer Prize for breaking the story of the My Lai massacre, interviewed Maggio last week and the former CIA agent said, "I told him about the Gulf of Tonkin and he went out and checked it out. He was astounded."

Maggio's book includes a chapter that the Central Intelligence Agency provoked the Gulf of Tonkin incident with a series of massacres of North Vietnamese fishing villages by CIA-guided disguised U.S. Navy vessels. The Gulf of Tonkin incident led to American air and ground combat involvement in the Vietnam war.

No Entry Allowed

Attempts to gain access to Camp Peary and official information on the base's activities have been unsuccessful. The most recent attempt to *The Virginia Gazette* was a letter to Major General Whinn Sidle, the Army's chief of information who filtered the request through channels.

As a result, a spokesman for Camp Peary responded succinctly that access by reporters was not allowed. He refused further comment.

Maggio summed up the philosophy of the CIA in his book. "It is up to us, the CIA, to save the country. To do this, we must at times do unpleasant things. But it is the best, the only way. Nothing is immoral, which protects the people and the United States way of life."

Speaking for himself last week, Maggio said "The truth of Camp Peary, being at Williamsburg is poetic."



Camp Peary's mile-long runway points south to Queens Creek, seen at top of picture. The "R" painted at both ends of the strip indicates that unauthorized aircraft are strictly forbidden from landing there.

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Camp Peary Exposed

As CIA Training Base

CAMP PEARY has been shrouded in total secrecy for over 20 years, and the organization that runs it — the Central Intelligence Agency — has intended for it to remain that way. However, in an exclusive interview last week, a former CIA agent who was stationed at Camp Peary in 1966, revealed that the 10,000-acre installation is a training camp for assassination teams, guerrilla cadres, foreign mercenaries and special warfare agents. All are employed by the CIA.

JOE MAGGIO, a former operative with the CIA's covert "Special Operations Division," said last Thursday in a phone interview from his residence in Coral Gables, Fla., that Camp Peary has been the chief "paramilitary, covert and clandestine" warfare training center for the CIA since the early 1950's when the base was reactivated.

"MY COVER was that of a civilian training advisor for the Department of Defense," Maggio said. "I was part of an outfit called the 'United States Army Technical Training Advisory Group.'"

MAGGIO STATED that in reality, he was a "contractee" of the Special Operations Division, which trains at Camp Peary for subversive military and espionage operations against targets selected by the CIA's policy-making group, known as the "303 Committee." Maggio added that he personally attended a "Special Intelligence Tradecraft Course" given to new CIA recruits for three months in 1966. Since then, he said he has kept in touch with friends who are still in the CIA and are familiar with Camp Peary.

THE MOST RECENT official statement on Camp Peary's mission appeared in a newspaper interview with the commander of the base eight years ago: "To conduct experiments dealing with all aspects of training methods and techniques, particularly with regard to new weapons."

INFORMATION provided by the former CIA agent, however, indicates that the training methods and techniques covered by the CIA at Camp Peary include: assassination training, demolition training,

This report is the result of four weeks of investigation by staffer Ed Offley and news editor W. C. O'Donovan.

parachute training, courses in wiretapping and intelligence gathering, and experiments with special weapons for use in the field — including what Maggio labeled as "mini-nuclear bombs."

"I'M SURE that if you had a blue ribbon committee go in there, they'd find a whole new world, a Disneyland of war," he said.

IN "COMPANY MAN," his recently published book of the CIA's Special Operations Division, Maggio presents a documented picture of the operations conducted at Camp Peary, then thought by many to be spelled "Perry." During last week's interview, he stated that activities described in the book were either seen by himself, or by close friends in the CIA.

"COMPANY MAN" is written as a novel, but Maggio stated last week that the information contained on Camp Peary is factual. "The book could never have been published as non-fiction," he said. "If you read between the lines, you might be able to gather that a lot of guys I soldiered with are still out. As far as national security is concerned, I was more concerned with making sure that within the terms of national security I did not jeopardize the individuals who I thought were pertinent to our national security — except for policy."

MAGGIO BEGINS his report on Camp Peary with a description of the Special Operations Division:

"SOD, THE CIA's black corps of mercenaries, had at its disposal its own air force, army and navy stationed throughout the world. The SOD kill teams, used mostly outside the United States, were a secret CIA organization headquartered at a secret area of Camp Perry (sic). Made up of professional killers — kill teams were dispatched to counter serious threats to the agency — doubles, informers, and political leaders who jeopardized the policy of 303 — the only CIA

body authorized to send them into battle. Any covert, clandestine mission is okay as long as you don't get caught or implicate the United States, since only results count."

BOTH IN HIS book and during the interview, Maggio identified four types of clandestine operations at Camp Peary. Two of them involve the training of recruits to the Special Operations Division.

"TRADECRAFT," or the gathering of intelligence information in the field, is taught in an 18-month "Operations Course" at Camp Peary, Maggio said. The new agents study collection of information, recruiting of new agents, compilation of dossiers on "persons in the field," operational surveillance of selected persons and organizations, and maintaining their own fictional identities.

MAGGIO ALSO noted that the students perform their final "Tradecraft exam" on the streets of nearby cities. He himself took the exam in Newport News. It consisted of a series of message drops, rendezvous gatherings with other agents and instructors, and surveillance and "tailing" of suspects.

INCLUDED IN the Tradecraft Course are lectures on the scope of worldwide activities by the Special Operations Division. Maggio outlined in "Company Man" the substance of these briefings:

—Daily intelligence reports gleaned from the White House, Congress, and other branches of the Federal government through a network of CIA agents and electronic wiretapping equipment "for which the CIA Deputy Director of Science and Technology has the only means of detection";

—Similar reports from networks implanted in the Kremlin and other world capitals;

—"Millions of files of civilians stored by microphotography";

—Maintenance of weapons caches "with enough infantry weapons and equipment to outfit two divisions" throughout the United States and other countries;

—Emplacement of agents in "every embassy, trade mission and travel group";

—Covert combat operations in trouble spots ranging geographically from Laos to the Congo.

"I'LL TELL you, the entire cadre that caught Che Guevara was trained at Camp Peary," Maggio said in the interview. "Those were the guys who went to Ft. Sherman in the Canal Zone and trained the people from Bolivia. They were all agents."

MAGGIO EXPLAINED in the book that a second training course set up at the base involves the paramilitary combat phase of training. He noted last week that the six-month "Operations Familiarization Course" includes an ambush course, jump training area and other combat training facilities. Maggio pointed out that "the whole paramilitary paraphernalia" is located in the triangular area of Camp Peary between the airfield, near the York River, and the mouth of Queens Creek.

"ROWS OF old cars, tanks, and amtracs (amphibious personnel carriers) line up on a pulley to prove what the Deputy Director of Science and Technology can do with TNT, tetrachloride, C-4 (plastic explosive), dynamite and highly classified CIA-used mini-nuclear bombs." This description of an ordnance testing area in "Company Man," mirrors an aerial photograph taken this month by *The Virginia Gazette* of the eastern corner of Camp Peary.

MAGGIO SAID in the interview that extensive testing of exotic weapons for the CIA takes part at the base. Asked to confirm the existence and testing of tactical nuclear weapons at Camp Peary, the former agent referred to a passage in his book:

"DOWN BY THE edge of the river, a large dark-gray building . . . houses small craft and maritime weaponry — nuclear and conventional. These can be launched from CIA-SOD battleships, aircraft carriers, destroyers and planes. Inside the maritime building . . . nuclear maritime experts work on the design of the only atomic device outside the jurisdiction of the Atomic Energy Commission. The device is capable of being fitted to aircraft and ships or held by SOD ground advisors on operations. The (policy making) group (of the CIA) decides its uses."

A SPOKESMAN for the Atomic Energy Commission, in Germantown, Md., said atomic weapons in this country "are turned over to the Department of Defense for

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15-28 Feb 1972

Dear Quicksilver,

About your article "Backyard C.I.A." -- The Williamsburg training base you mentioned is Camp Peary, which is on Rt. 64 about three miles out of town. The base's cover is it is an armed forces experimental training activity (A.F.E.T.A.) that it has been in operation for about twenty years. Three types of training programs go on: The regular classroom and paramilitary instruction given to agent trainees, "refresher" courses, and special training given to agents who are being sent to combat areas (Laos, Africa, etc.).

The last we heard, the dude in charge down there is named Humphries, the executive officer is Ed Mitchell, the security officer is Dudley Foster and his assistant is Jim Cunningham. Send them a letter; any of the people just named can be reached at:

Box 1447

Williamsburg, Va.

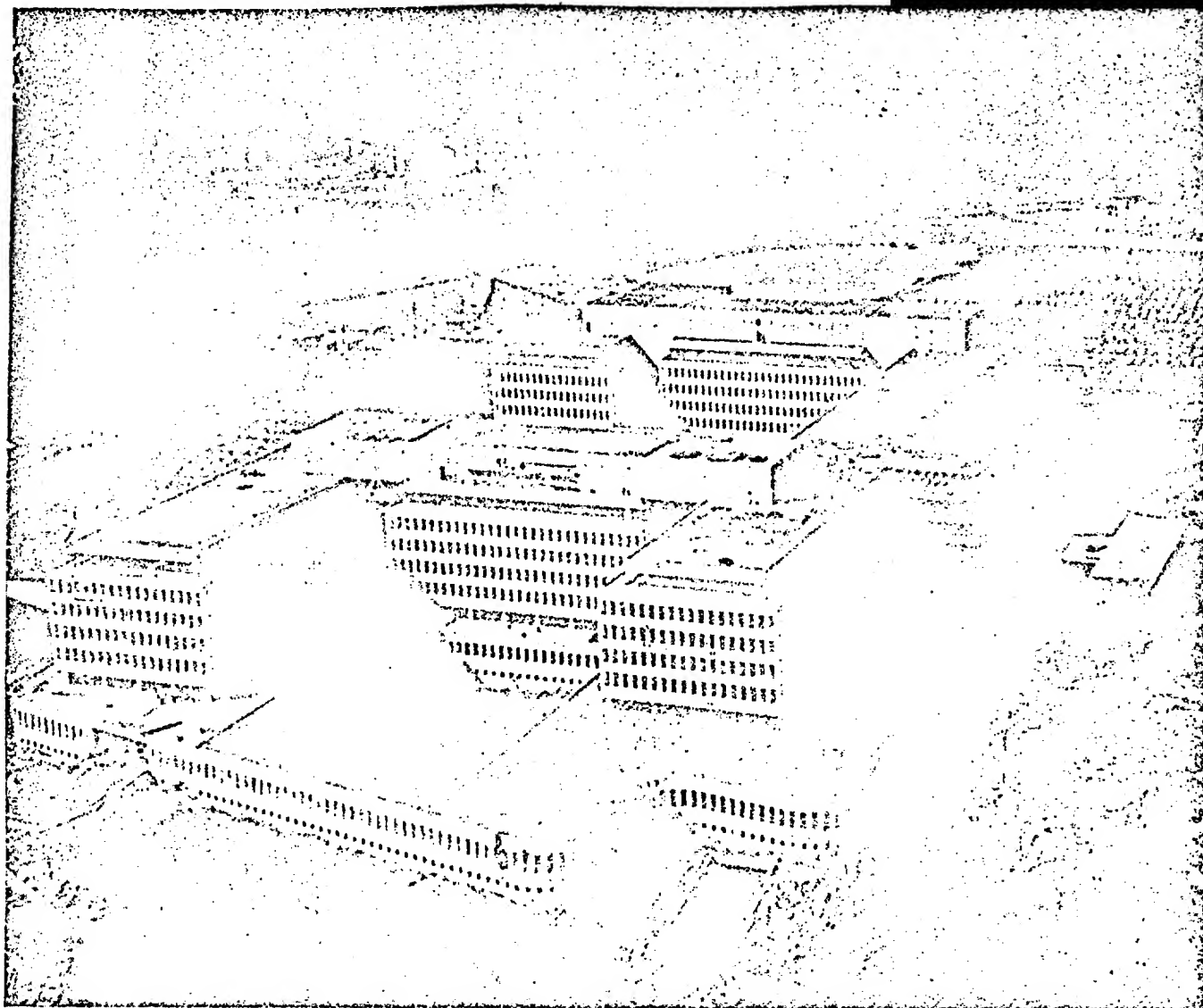
Better yet, call them. Their phone number is (703) 229-2121. Just ask the base operator to connect you with the security department.

Closer to home we have "Blue U", which is a secret C.I.A. installation at 1000 N. Glebe Rd. in Arlington. The top three floors of this building are used by the agency (or the outfit; at it is known by its employees).

We should get as much of this kind of information out to the people as we can. Folks should know just who these pigs are and where they can be found so they can be dealt with appropriately when the time comes.

Firepower to the People!
Love, Cosmic Charlie

STATINT



CIA Headquarters in Virginia

Back yard CIA

The Central Intelligence Agency always insists its men aren't involved in domestic police work. But in Chicago CIA agents have been working with the FBI and Treasury men in an effort to pin the bank bombings on radical groups.

Heretofore, clandestine CIA police work within the US was centered around counter espionage efforts aimed at the

Soviet KGB. CIA maintains secret bases in all major US cities. The agency also has training camps in Virginia and the Carolinas. These are masked as regular military bases. Spooks are trained for duty at Williamsburg, Va.

Two years ago CIA employees were surprised to find that a police force received blue ribbon treatment at Langley, Va., headquarters

They met there with Helms, were shown around, and taken to the secret training camps. That was the beginning of rumors within the agency that the CIA had been given the go ahead to move into domestic police operations. While everyone denied it, the theory was that the CIA was told to get the radicals.

Two recent personnel changes increased speculation. One involved resignation of Helm's special assistant, Robert Kiley. Kiley handled the student operations through National Student Association facades. He recently turned up as associate director of the Police Foundation, a new group launched with a \$30 million Ford Foundation grant. The money is meant to be used to improve local police.

The second personnel shift involved Drexel Godfrey, who was head of the CIA's Office of Current Intelligence. He quit this high ranking job, turned up in the narcotics bureau of the Justice Commission at Harrisburg, Pa. The commission is another new group which aims to help improve local

police. Both personnel shifts are cited by agency people to bolstering fronts in the US, this time, moving into was given a new title recently, making him head of all intelligence and presumably providing him with a legitimate interest in internal police operations. But such suggestions are bitterly denied all around.